

Appl. No. : 10/007,642  
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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An integrated emergency medical transportation database system having a billing modifier module, the system comprising:

a medical emergency database configured to store at least clinical encounter information, patient demographic data and transport information; and

a billing modifier module, wherein the billing modifier module accesses a clinical encounter location stored in the medical emergency database and compares the clinical encounter location to a list of geographic areas, and wherein the result of the comparison ~~is used to apply causes~~ billing modifiers to be determined and applied to the medical charges associated with the medical emergency.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the list of geographic areas comprises a ZIP code list.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein two or more billing modifiers are applied.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the billing modifiers are multiplicative.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the billing modifier is based on a metropolitan statistical area.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 5, wherein the metropolitan statistical area is determined by the federal government.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the billing modifier is based on a geographic practice cost index.

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8. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the geographic practice cost index is determined by the federal government.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the billing modifier provides rural transportation providers a financial advantage to offset low volumes of work.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 1, additionally comprising a billing module in communication with the medical emergency database, the billing module receiving data from the billing modifier module.

11. (Currently amended) A method of billing modification for an integrated emergency medical transportation database system, the method comprising:

collecting at least clinical encounter information, patient demographic data and transport information into a medical emergency database;

accessing a clinical encounter location stored in the medical emergency database; and

comparing the clinical encounter location to a list of geographic areas, wherein the result of the comparison ~~is used to apply causes~~ a billing modifier to be determined and applied to the medical charges associated with the medical emergency.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the list of geographic areas is determined by the federal government.

13. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clinical encounter information is indicative of medical transportation.

14. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the clinical encounter information is indicative of medical transportation.

15. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein two or more billing modifiers are applied.

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16. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the billing modifiers are multiplicative.

17. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the billing modifier is based on a metropolitan statistical area.

18. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the billing modifier is based on a geographic practice cost index.